



Equality Bulletin



Tamara's Tragedy Triggers Outcry: NGECE Demands Urgent Child Protection Reforms

Commission flags systemic failures following brutal murder of seven-year-old, urges immediate action to prevent further child abuse and killings.

NGEC, under its constitutional mandate defined in Article 59(1)(c) and the Children Act, 2022, has begun a comprehensive investigation into the circumstances surrounding Tamara's death. The Commission's delegation engaged with Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri, the County Children's Department, law enforcement officials, representatives from the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), and the Law Society of Kenya (LSK).

Tamara's killing has stirred nationwide anger, sparking renewed scrutiny of the inadequacies of child safety protocols, especially in informal settlements like Witemere

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A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the **16th edition** of the Equality Bulletin. This issue highlights the Commission's urgent call for reforms in child protection as violence against children continues to rise. It also spotlights a bold new partnership between Parliament and the Commission to advance equality in Kenya.

We also issue a strong warning against the dangers of misogyny in public office, in light of recent remarks by Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo targeting Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo. Such attacks not only insult individuals but undermine the dignity, equality, and constitutional values we all uphold.

Additionally, the bulletin pushes for greater attention to women's health and wellness at work, alongside many more important issues shaping Kenya's equality agenda.



Purity Ngina, PhD, MBS
Chief Executive Officer
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Parliament, NGEC Forge Bold New Pact to Champion Equality



Commissioners, members of staff and officials from the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Social Protection

NAIVASHA — In a renewed push to deliver on Kenya's constitutional promise of equity and inclusion, the Commission (NGEC) hosted the National Assembly's Departmental Committee on Social Protection for a high-level consultation workshop held from May 28 to 31 at the Morendat Institute of Oil and Gas, Naivasha.

The meeting, spearheaded by NGEC Chairperson Hon. Rehema Jaldesa, marked a shift towards a more deliberate and structured engagement between the Commission and Parliament. The goal: to align efforts in tackling discrimination and advancing the rights of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) across the country.

“This is not just another consultative meeting—it's a new approach to working with Parliament. We need to engage more often, not occasionally,” said Hon. Jaldesa. “Our mandate is constitutional, and to deliver on it, we must have Parliament as a firm and consistent partner.” During the session, the Commission shared its Strategic Plan for 2025–

2029, which outlines key priorities and requires Kshs. 7.02 billion to implement. Among its flagship proposals is the establishment of four new regional offices aimed at expanding access to services for women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, youth, and other marginalised communities. The plan also prioritises strengthening redress mechanisms and scaling up legal aid clinics.

Parliamentarians were briefed on recent progress, including the successful advocacy that led to the creation of the Minorities and Marginalised Affairs Unit under the Presidency, following an NGEC advisory. The Commission also highlighted its innovative community outreach on gender-based violence, where men are now being engaged as allies for change. However, the Chairperson did not shy away from the challenges, particularly underfunding and the Commission's limited presence in underserved counties. She called on the Committee to push for increased support, arguing that every shilling invested

in NGEC is a step closer to realizing constitutional rights for vulnerable Kenyans.

Members of the Committee acknowledged the Commission's impact and the need for stronger institutional backing. Hon. Agnes Pareyio, a member of the Committee lauded NGEC's work and affirmed the Committee's readiness to support efforts that bring services closer to the people.



Chairperson and Commissioners during the meeting

This meeting sets the tone for a deeper, more intentional partnership between NGEC and Parliament. As the Chairperson put it, “We are not just asking for resources—we are asking for a working partnership. You are our bridge to the people.” The Commission plans to institutionalize these engagements with Parliament through regular biannual sessions, a move expected to boost accountability, responsiveness, and impact in addressing social exclusion and inequality

Pupils Power Up: Isiolo Launches Bold School Campaign Against GBV

Children in Isiolo's primary schools are being armed with the knowledge to recognise and report gender-based violence, thanks to NGEC-World Vision initiative.

In a proactive effort to tackle gender-based violence (GBV) from the ground up, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Isiolo regional office, in collaboration with World Vision Kenya, has launched a school-based campaign to educate children on GBV prevention, reporting procedures, and available support systems.

The awareness initiative, rolled out this week, targets child rights clubs in schools across Ngaremara, Burat, and Oldonyiro wards. Through interactive sessions, pupils are being taught how to identify signs of abuse, understand their rights, and use established referral pathways to seek help.



Anthony Somo, NGEC Isiolo regional pose for a group photo with students

“Over 60 percent of GBV cases in Kenya go unreported due to fear, stigma, and lack of information,” said Anthony Somo from NGEC. “By empowering children early, we're fostering a generation that recognises abuse and takes action against it.”

The campaign underscores the role of young people as both present-day advocates and future leaders. By nurturing informed and courageous pupils, the programme aims to cultivate safer school environments and instil a culture of accountability and protection within communities.

“This isn't just about awareness—it's about prevention and protection,” added an official from World Vision Kenya. “We're equipping children to become agents of change.”

The programme also provides clear guidelines on how to access support services, such as counselling and legal aid, through trusted referral systems.

Push for Women's Health and Wellness at Work



Dr. Purity Ngina, MBS, CEO, NGECC, at the inaugural Women Engineers Convention 2025

The inaugural Women Engineers Convention 2025 brought together leading voices in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to address the pressing issues facing women in technical fields. Among the key participants was Dr. Purity Ngina, CEO of the Commission, who took part in a critical panel discussion on “Mental and Reproductive Health and Wellness in the Workplace.”

Dr. Ngina offered a candid and timely reflection on the lived experiences of women engineers, drawing attention to systemic gaps that continue to hinder women's full participation in technical professions.

She highlighted challenges such as the lack of flexible working arrangements, inadequate provision of lactation spaces for nursing mothers, and the enduring stigma attached to discussions around mental health and reproductive health needs in professional settings. “These are not just women's issues—they are workplace issues,” Dr. Ngina stated.

“For organisations to truly thrive, they must create spaces where women feel safe, supported, and seen.”

Her remarks underscored the Commission's broader agenda to push for gender-responsive workplace policies that acknowledge and address the specific needs of women. She called for bold action from employers, regulators, and policymakers to institutionalise support structures that promote mental well-being and reproductive health, particularly in male-dominated fields like engineering.

The panel, attended by professionals, academics, and policymakers, sparked constructive debate and laid the groundwork for future policy engagement on health and wellness in the workplace.

Dr. Ngina's participation reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to championing gender equality at work by advocating for environments that protect the dignity, rights, and wellness of women across all sectors

Urgent Call for Protection of Street Families



Mr. George Wanyonyi, NGECC speaking to stakeholders at the consultative meeting

The Commission (NGECC) convened a crucial consultative meeting to address the challenges faced by Kenya's estimated 300,000 street-connected children. Held at the NGECC main boardroom, the half-day session gathered key government agencies, civil society organizations, child protection experts, and community leaders to review current interventions and chart a path toward more coordinated and inclusive support for street-connected children and their families.

The meeting opened with a stark reminder of the harsh realities these children face daily. Violence, social exclusion, and gender-based risks remain widespread among street-connected populations, leaving many vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. “Every child deserves safety, dignity, and access to education,” a senior NGECC official declared, setting the tone for the urgent discussions that followed.

Participants shared data and frontline experiences showing that street-connected children continue to face significant barriers to accessing essential services, including health care, education, and social protection. Girls living on the streets are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse, a concern repeatedly highlighted throughout the session.

Beyond the children themselves, the meeting recognized the families behind these street-connected children, stressing that they are not invisible and their rights must be upheld. Poverty, family breakdown, and lack of social safety nets were identified as key drivers pushing children onto the streets, prompting calls for interventions that address these root causes holistically.

The Commission reiterated its commitment to act as a convening and coordinating body, aiming to strengthen partnerships between government departments, NGOs, and community groups. Stakeholders agreed that a multi-sectoral, integrated approach combining social welfare, education, health, and legal protection frameworks is essential to improving outcomes for street-connected children and families.

» CONTINUATION

Call for Urgent Reforms in Child Protection as Child Violence Escalates



Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru, H.E. Deputy Governor David Kinaniri when she paid a courtesy call to the Governor's office

The Commission (NGEC) has called for immediate reforms in child protection systems following the murder of seven-year-old Tamara Blessing Kabura in Nyeri County. Speaking during a follow-up mission in Nyeri on Wednesday, NGECKENYA Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru said the incident revealed glaring gaps in the protection of children, particularly in informal settlements and low-income areas.

“This case is not just about one suspect. It is about a system that failed to protect a child. There is urgent need for stronger local-level child protection structures that are proactive, not reactive,” said Dr. Karungaru.

The Commission's visit comes a week after Tamara's body was discovered buried in the home of a man identified as a casual labourer. The suspect is in police custody and is expected to be arraigned on June 10.

Dr. Karungaru held meetings with Nyeri Deputy Governor David Kinaniri, law enforcement officials, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), the Law Society of Kenya (LSK), and the County Children's Department.

She said NGECKENYA was closely monitoring the progress of investigations and would remain engaged until justice is delivered.

“We are here to ensure that investigations are handled professionally, transparently, and with urgency. NGECKENYA will continue to engage the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, IPOA and other agencies involved to make sure justice is served,” she added.

The Commission is also assessing the support being provided to Tamara's family. Dr. Karungaru noted that psychosocial assistance is essential and must be made available immediately and in the long term.

Under Article 59(1)(c) of the Constitution and the Children Act, 2022, NGECKENYA has a statutory mandate to promote and protect the rights of children and other vulnerable groups. The Commission's presence in Nyeri is part of its duty to advise, monitor, and intervene in cases involving violation of rights.

“We will not be silent when children are being killed or abused. Our message is clear—child protection is a legal obligation, not a favour,” said Dr. Karungaru.

NGECKENYA is preparing a set of recommendations aimed at strengthening local-level mechanisms to protect children, including improved coordination between the police, the judiciary, the county government and child protection officers.

The Commission said it will also follow up with national and county stakeholders to ensure implementation of reforms and sustained attention to rising cases of violence against children.

Tamara's killing has triggered widespread public outrage and renewed scrutiny of child safety measures. Residents of Witemere, where the suspect lived, told the Commission they felt unsafe and neglected by the system. “This case is a wake-up call,” said Dr. Karungaru. “It must not be buried with Tamara.”

Push Youth-Focused Employment Policies

The Commission took part in the Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) Kenya Mentorship Programme for Universities and TVETs (KMPUTs) held at KCA University. The event, themed “Job Market Dynamics and Opportunities for Kenyan Youth,” brought together stakeholders to discuss how national plans, training institutions, and industry can collaborate to prepare young Kenyans for evolving job market demands.

At the forum, the Commission emphasized the importance of aligning education and training with emerging job trends, promoting mentorship for youth-led businesses, recognizing prior learning as a valid pathway, and updating curricula to meet the needs of the gig economy.

During a panel focused on youth employment integration in planning and budgeting, the Commission called for targeted affirmative action programs for marginalized youth, a coordinated national youth empowerment framework, and stronger mechanisms to ensure young -



Lynette Kigotho, Program Officer, in a panel session at the forum

people have a meaningful role in policy and decision-making processes.

The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to promoting inclusive employment and economic empowerment opportunities for all Kenyan youth.

Commission Rallies Stakeholders to Drive Implementation of New PwDs Act

The Commission (NGEC) week convened a multi-sectoral stakeholder forum to unpack the recently enacted Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) Act, 2025.

Held at the Commission's main Boardroom and live streamed across multiple social media platforms the meeting brought together representatives from government, civil society, the private sector, and organizations of persons with disabilities to examine the Act's key provisions, implementation roadmap, and steps to ensure inclusion and accountability.

The PwDs Act 2025 marks a major legal milestone aimed at strengthening the rights, access, and dignity of persons with disabilities in Kenya. It mandates inclusive access to education, healthcare, employment opportunities, and participation in public life, in line with Kenya's Constitution and international standards such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).



Madam Jane Wamugu, Regional Coordinator, National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), Nairobi County

Stakeholders noted that while the law sets a strong framework, effective implementation will require focused efforts on public awareness, capacity building, and inter-agency coordination. Many speakers highlighted the need for sensitization campaigns to educate both service providers and the general public on PwDs rights and the new legal obligations.

A common concern was ensuring accountability at all levels, with calls for robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress. Participants emphasized that county governments will play a critical role in mainstreaming disability-inclusive policies at the grassroots level.

Reflecting the principle of "Nothing about us without us," the forum underlined the essential

role of persons with disabilities in leadership and decision-making throughout the implementation process. Representatives from disability organizations stressed that their direct involvement is key to addressing barriers and tailoring solutions that reflect lived realities.



The Commission committed to facilitating ongoing stakeholder engagement, coordinating capacity development programs, and establishing clear benchmarks to measure the Act's impact. This, the Commission said, is crucial for transforming the legislative gains into real improvements in the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

Malindi Regional Office Highlights Automation in Justice Access at Open Day



David Juma, Kilifi Regional Office, speaking at the Malindi Law Courts Open Day

The Malindi Regional Office took part in the Malindi Law Courts Open Day, joining other members of the Court Users Committee to engage the community under the theme "A Day for the Community with the Court – The Role of Automation in Enhancing Access to Justice."

During a lively plenary session, the team shared the office's mandate and functions, emphasizing the importance of an inclusive justice system. They highlighted how the use of automation is transforming access to justice, making it more efficient and accessible for all members of the community

The event provided a valuable platform for dialogue between court officials and the public, fostering better understanding of ongoing efforts to improve judicial services through technology.

This approach aims to reduce barriers and ensure justice is available to everyone, regardless of their background.

When Leaders Cross the Line: The Danger of Misogyny in Public Office



The recent remarks by Isiolo Governor Abdi Guyo targeting Isiolo Senator Fatuma Dullo should shock every Kenyan who values dignity, equality, and the rule of law. His crude, misogynistic comments did more than insult a woman in public office—they struck at the very foundations of our constitutional democracy.

Senator Dullo was doing what any elected leader must do: hold government accountable for public funds. Instead of engaging on the issues, Governor Guyo chose to attack her personally, twisting her constitutional duty into a matter of private grievance. This is not only disrespectful; it is a clear act of psychological violence, a form of gender-based violence that the law explicitly condemns.

The Constitution is unambiguous. Article 27 guarantees equality and dignity to all citizens. Chapter Six demands integrity, respect, and honour from those in public office.

By resorting to sexist insults, Governor Guyo undermines these constitutional principles and disrespects the office he holds. His words also degrade the youth by reducing them to sexual objects, a behavior no public official should condone or express.

Such conduct cannot be brushed aside as mere “heat of the moment” talk. It reflects deeper, entrenched attitudes that allow gender-based violence to persist, even among those entrusted with leadership. When leaders normalize this kind of language, they legitimize intimidation and silence of women in leadership roles, threatening our progress towards gender equality.

In response, the Commission took a firm stand. The Commission demanded an immediate and unqualified public apology from Governor Guyo to Senator Dullo, the women of Kenya, and the public. It called for investigations by relevant bodies—including the

Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission—with full accountability if culpability is established.

The Commission also urged the Council of Governors to publicly denounce the remarks and commit to upholding integrity and respect for gender in leadership. Finally, it called on all leaders to reject and speak out against sexist and demeaning language in public discourse.



Governor. Abdi Guyo



Sen. Fatuma Dullo

Senator Fatuma Dullo showed courage standing firm in her constitutional role despite these attacks. She deserves not only our solidarity but our full support in creating a Kenya where women leaders can serve without fear of degradation or intimidation.

The message is clear: Our democracy depends on respect, accountability, and equality. Misogyny from any leader has no place in Kenya’s public life.

Track, Trust, and Trauma: North Rift Rallies to End Abuse in Athletics

NGEC Kisumu partners with sports stakeholders to combat Gender-Based Violence and protect female athletes in Kenya's athletic heartland.

In a decisive move to protect the future of Kenyan athletics, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Kisumu Office has launched a robust campaign to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in the North Rift—a region globally renowned for producing elite long-distance runners.

The initiative, rolled out in collaboration with athletics camps, sports federations, and child protection agencies, is being implemented amid growing concern over the silent suffering of female athletes. According to global studies, one in three female athletes experiences some form of abuse during their careers, with most cases going unreported due to fear, stigma, or institutional inaction.

“We can no longer allow abuse to thrive in silence,” said NGEC Kisumu Regional Head, Davis Okeyo, during a training session in Iten, Elgeyo-Marakwet County. “Athletes should be able to pursue their dreams in safe and respectful environments.

Our mission is to make safeguarding a standard—not an afterthought—in every training ground and competition arena.”



The move follows a series of reported and unreported incidents of abuse in sports camps across Kenya and other countries.

In recent years, investigations by both local media and international bodies have revealed troubling patterns of coercion, harassment, and systemic failure to protect young athletes.

The initiative aims to reverse this trend. In a recent workshop held in Iten, often dubbed the “Home of Champions”, more than 150 stakeholders—including camp managers, sports psychologists, and youth representatives—participated in intensive sessions on recognising early warning signs of abuse and the importance of survivor-centred responses.



NGEC Kisumu Regional Head, Davis Okeyo, during a training session in Iten

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility,” emphasised a representative from Athletics Kenya. “We must build trust, ensure accountability, and create mechanisms that do not fail victims.”

While the North Rift remains a beacon of athletic excellence, officials stress that talent development must not come at the expense of basic human rights. As part of the rollout, the campaign will also include awareness drives in schools, local radio spots in vernacular languages, and the distribution of safeguarding materials across training camps.

The long-term goal is clear: to build a culture in which zero tolerance for abuse is not just a slogan but a lived reality. The campaign urges community members, parents, and team leaders to speak out and act swiftly when concerns arise.

While the North Rift has long been synonymous with victory and athletic pride, this campaign underscores that true greatness must be built on a foundation of dignity and safety. The NGEC and its partners are committed to ensuring that athletes—especially girls and young women—can chase gold medals without fearing abuse behind the scenes.

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